

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 11, with the following redlined paragraph:

As can be seen from Fig. 3, there is shown the state in which a j terminal in the sub-ring i transmits an optical signal to a l terminal in the sub-ring k . The ~~$n-m$~~ number of sub-rings is connected to the connection nodes in the main rings via respective sub-ring controllers and the n number of terminals is connected to respective sub-rings. The number of wavelength used in the entire network is n , and the wavelengths allocated to respective terminals and sub-ring controllers are as follows.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 21, with the following redlined paragraph:

Also, the arrows indicated dotted lines in Fig. 3 represent a transmit direction of the packet, and characters on the dotted lines represent wavelength used to transmit the packet. That is, the terminals (i,j) uses the wavelength ~~λ_i~~ λ_j to transmit the packet to the sub-ring controller i and the sub-ring controller i uses the wavelength λ_i to transmit the packet to the main ring controller. Meanwhile, in the main ring controller, the main ring transmits/receives an optical signal in which the wavelengths used by all the sub-ring controllers are multiplexed in a clockwise direction but each of the sub-ring controllers receives only the optical signal loaded on the wavelength allocated to itself. Also, in each of the sub-ring controllers, a corresponding sub-ring transmits/receives an optical signal in which the wavelengths used by all the terminals are multiplexed in a clockwise direction but each of the terminals transmits/receives only the optical signal loaded on the wavelength allocated to itself.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 11, with the following redlined paragraph:

The main network controller includes a λ -tag delineator 61, a λ -tag based switching section 62, and buffers 63 each provided for wavelengths, respectively, a lead frame section 64 and a transmitter 65 each provided for wavelengths, respectively. The λ -tag

delineator 61 delineates the λ -tags added to the packets. The λ -tag based switching section 62 distributes the packets to the buffers 63 allocated to respective wavelengths based on the delineated λ -tag. The buffers 63 store the packets and each are provided for wavelengths, respectively. The buffers manage the packets based on the FIFO (first in first out) priority or any priority policy if there is any specific priority. The lead frame section 64 adds/transmits the λ -tag and information necessary for transmitting the packet if necessary. The transmitter 65 reads the packets from the buffers 63 to convert the read packets into optical signals.